

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

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District Attorney



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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

October 14, 2014



Re: People v. Dean Joseph Basler

Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce E. Dudley announced today that on October 10, 2014, Dean Joseph Basler, age 58, of Ventura, pled guilty to two felony counts of embezzlement and admitted a special allegation that he embezzled in excess of \$150,000.00. Basler was arrested following an investigation by the Valencia Office of the California Department of Insurance Fraud Division. The Department of Insurance investigation revealed that Basler had been collecting "insurance" premiums from customers in Santa Barbara County who believed they were paying for homeowners insurance. However, the investigation revealed that Basler was pocketing the premiums and issuing fake insurance certificates to his customers. It is estimated that Basler stole over \$250,000.00 from the victims. Many of the victims lived in high fire risk areas of Santa Barbara County.

The fraud was uncovered when one of Basler's customers sought additional insurance coverage on her home and learned she had no insurance. Basler was reported to the Department of Insurance's Fraud Division and an investigation was conducted.

"It was fortunate there were no wildfires in Santa Barbara County at the time Basler was running his scam; otherwise, the victims in this case would have faced complete financial devastation," said District Attorney Joyce Dudley. Basler will be sentenced on December 5, 2014. At that time he will be sentenced to 240 days in the Santa Barbara County Jail, be placed on probation for 4 years, and ordered to pay restitution to his victims.

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